

The Monthly Minute

with State Senator John Pappageorge

P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909 Toll Free 1-877-SEN13th (736-1384)

www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.com (website and e-mail)



Agreement Reached on Fiscal Year 2009 Budget

Dear Friend:

You will be pleased to know that an agreement has been reached on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 budget. Keeping the needs of Michigan residents and our tough economy in mind, all parties involved in the budget negotiations worked in a spirit of cooperation and collaboration. The result is a fiscally responsible budget that reins in government spending while ensuring vital services are protected.

We were able to hold the line on spending by agreeing to a general fund budget that is \$194 million less than the current year. Many state departments saw reductions in funding, including:

- Department of Community Health was reduced by \$65.8 million;
- Department of Human Services was reduced by \$29.7 million; and
- Department of Corrections was reduced by \$20.6 million.

For the first time in seven years, the budget agreement included a revenue sharing increase for local police and fire safety. The 2% increase will bring thousands of additional dollars to communities across the 13th Senate District. Madison Heights will receive \$20,000 more than the current year. Royal Oak will benefit from an additional \$29,000 and Troy will see an extra \$23,000. Clawson's revenue sharing will increase by more than \$6,000, while funding for Bloomfield Township and Berkley will improve by more than \$7,000. Birmingham will see an extra \$6,000.

Education remained a priority in the FY 2009 budget agreement. Schools will receive an increase of between \$56-\$112 per-pupil depending on their current funding level. Schools with the lowest funding receive the larger increase.

Higher Education also remained a priority of the Legislature's in the budget agreement. Universities were granted a 1% increase across the board. The Community Colleges budget received an overall increase of 2% and will be distributed based on performance indicators.

I am pleased that all parties agreed to and passed a budget that does not rely on further tax increases for our already struggling residents and families. With difficult days ahead, Michigan must maintain and increase the efficient delivery of services and demand accountability from state departments on how precious taxpayer dollars are spent.

Sincerely,

John Pappageorge

Inside this issue:

Senate Aims to 2
Stop Copper
Theft

Measure to 2
Help Veterans
Keep Track of
Important
Records Now
Law

Law Provides a 2
Boost to
Michigan's
Construction
Industry

Southeast 3
Oakland
County Senior
Salute

Low Interest 4
Home
Improvement
Loans
Available

Senate aims to stop copper theft

Thefts of copper and other valuable metals will drastically be reduced under legislation recently passed by the Michigan Senate. Senate Bill 1358 would create the Nonferrous Metal Regulatory Act to establish requirements for dealers and sellers of valuable metals and prescribe penalties for violations. Sellers must present the dealer with a picture ID, allow the dealer to make a photocopy of it and also allow the dealer to make a thumbprint for identification and investigation purposes.

Under the legislation dealers must:

- Create an accurate, legible record of each purchase transaction and retain the database for at least a



year;

- Register with or subscribe to an Internet-based database available to dealers, law enforcement agencies and the general public that lists and tracks thefts of nonferrous metal and articles containing nonferrous metals; and
- Pay a seller by check, electronic transfer, ATM card or bar code, or other method

capable of being traced from the dealer to the seller.

Buying or selling nonferrous metal articles, knowing they were stolen, would be a felony punishable by up to five years imprisonment and/or a maximum fine of \$5,000.

SB 1114 provides penalties for stealing copper and other metals. Penalties would be assessed based on the value of the property stolen. This includes the replacement cost of the stolen metal, the cost of repairing the damage caused by the theft, or the sum of both of these amounts.

The bills now head to the House of Representatives for consideration.

Measure to help veterans keep track of important records now law

A Senate Republican measure to help veterans keep track of important information that may be needed eventually for employment reasons or to receive benefits has been signed into law.

Senate Bill 752, now Public Act 163 of 2008, requires the Michigan Department of Military and Veteran Affairs to file the "discharge from active duty" form with the register

of deeds in the home county of the service member. Having the form available at the county level offers an additional safeguard.

The DD Form 214 is one of the most important documents a member of the armed services ever receives. It is a complete record that includes campaign awards, decorations, medals, citations, promotions, re-enlistment eligibility and

other valuable information.

The form may be requested by employers and is commonly used by various governmental agencies to secure veteran benefits.

The legislation is part of a comprehensive veterans' package introduced last September.

Law provides a boost to Michigan's construction industry

A Senate bill that will provide relief to the state's struggling construction industry by fixing another structural problem in the Michigan Business Tax (MBT) has been signed into law.

Senate Bill 1217, now Public Act

177 of 2008, allows builders to deduct the cost of materials, supplies and subcontractor payments from their gross receipts under the MBT.

The measure is expected to help spur Michigan's economy by enabling construction companies to

keep more money to retain

workers and hire new ones.

The bill covers general building contractors, heavy construction contractors and some construction special trade contractors.



SOUTHEAST OAKLAND COUNTY

SENIOR*Salute**Hosted by***Senator John Pappageorge**

All Seniors Invited! Food • Fun • Free Stuff

- Free health screenings & flu shots!
- Hot lunch sponsored by Big Boy restaurants.
- Raffle prizes and door prizes.
- Resources relevant to issues facing seniors.
- Free cloth bag.
- Call 248-723-0988 to reserve your spot today!

First Annual
Southeast Oakland County

Senior Salute

Monday, October 6, 2008

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Royal Oak Farmer's Market

(316 E. 11 Mile Rd, Royal Oak, Michigan)



Tickets are
just \$3!

Interested in becoming a sponsor?

The Southeast Oakland County Senior Salute is made possible through the participation of local businesses and organizations. If you or someone you know is interested in hosting a booth, donating prizes, or participating in any other way, please contact Jackie Mosher in Senator Pappageorge's office for more information. Phone (517) 373- 2523 or E-mail jmosher@senate.michigan.gov.



Low Interest Home Improvement Loans

Did you know that low interest home improvement loans are available to single-family homeowners with low-to-moderate income, and landlords renting to low-to-moderate income tenants? The loans are provided through Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA)-approved participating lenders and community agents. Eligible repairs include:

- Repairing/replacing a roof
- Installing new siding
- Adding insulation
- Replacing a furnace
- Installing a ramp
- Other similar improvements

For more information or to learn about applying for a low interest home improvement loan, visit www.michigan.gov/mshda.



**Michigan State
Housing Development
Authority**

www.michigan.gov/mshda



Questions or Comments?

If you have any questions or comments regarding information in this newsletter, or wish to be removed from or added to the mailing list, please contact my office at the following information:

State Senator John Pappageorge • P.O. Box 30036 Lansing, MI 48909
1-877-SEN-13TH (736-1384) (toll-free) • 517-373-5669 (fax)

www.SenatorJohnPappageorge.com
(website and e-mail form)